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tor of Music on Prof. E. A. MacDowell, of Columbia University. The LL. D. was conferred, *in absentia*, on Lord Kelvin, professor of natural philosophy in the University of Glasgow, Scotland, and Otto Struve, formerly director of the observatory of Pulkowa, Russia, and a congratulatory cablegram from Lord Kelvin was read.

In the evening a dinner was given to about three hundred guests. There were eight toasts: 'Theology,' responded to by G. P. Fisher; 'Philosophy,' by Andrew Seth; 'Jurisprudence,' by William B. Hornblower; 'Mathematics,' by F. Klein; 'The Physical Sciences,' by Ira Remsen; 'The Natural Sciences,' by A. A. W. Hubrecht; 'History,' by Goldwin Smith, and 'Literature,' by Edward Dowden.

The pagentry of the celebration was carried out with unusual impressiveness. There were processions, concerts and athletic contests, taken part in by hundreds of alumni, students and invited guests. Princeton University may be congratulated on the enthusiasm of its friends as well as on the admirable arrangements which made the celebration notable as an educational, literary and scientific event.

#### CURRENT NOTES ON ANTHROPOLOGY.

##### THE BLACK RACE OF SUSA.

ONE of the most interesting questions in the ethnography of ancient Babylonia is the presence there of a black race. They seem to be referred to in various inscriptions of the first and second millenium B. C. as 'black heads;' and some of the human figures carved in relief are negroid, especially those from ancient Susiana.

Many writers, as Conder, Schurtz and de Quatrefages, have maintained that they were the vestiges of a primitive black race which in prehistoric times occupied most of southern Asia.

It has been generally stated that the only

negroid people now west of the Indus are the Brahus, in the Khanate of Celat, whose language allies them to the Dravidas. Dr. Daniloff, however, recently made a communication to the Anthropological Society of St. Petersburg on the ethnography of Persia, in which he mentioned these 'Susians' as still forming an independent group, located among the mountains north of Shiraz. Many of them seek employment at a distance, and they are not rare in Teheran. It would be most interesting to study them carefully, and to obtain the relics of their peculiar language, if it still exists.

##### THE EARLIEST RELICS OF MAN IN FRANCE.

THE '*Revue Mensuelle*' of the Paris School of Anthropology for September contains a careful article by M. d'Ault du Mesnil on the palæolithic deposits of Abbeville. It is the most exact stratigraphic and palæontologic examination of this celebrated site which has yet appeared, and is the result of several years close study of the excavations.

There can be no doubt but that the oldest and rudest forms of implements date back to a period when the *Elephas antiquus* and *Elephas meridionalis* were abundant in that area. The artificially chipped stones from that ancient layer are large, almond-shaped, and often dressed on one side only. As the deposit is traced upward, the improvement in the artefacts is apparent and their number increases. The primitive forms continue to be present, that is, the tribes did not abandon the older models, but at each epoch new and higher forms and more careful technique appear. The relative age of these deposits can be fixed by the abundant remains of the fauna associated with them.

Whatever doubt may have persisted in the minds of some about the Abbeville relics must disappear after a close reading of this article.

## THE MAN IN THE MOON.

IN the *Correspondenz-Blatt* for July, of the German Anthropological Society, R. Behla has a curious study on the notions of various peoples as to what we see in the moon. These notions are strangely divergent. In most European nations there is a fancy that in the full moon there are the features of a human face, and hence the tales about 'the man in the moon.'

On the other hand, very widely throughout Asia, in both Aryan and Mongolian folklore, not a human being, but a hare, or rabbit, is believed to be seen, sitting on his haunches, in the orb of the moon. This also recurs among the Mexican Aztecs, though in South America again, among some Brazilian tribes, the man in the moon reappears.

In English and the Romance languages the moon is regarded as feminine, as was also the case among the Semites; but in German it is a masculine noun. This is usually the case among savage tribes, and often with them the sun is female, the wife or sister of the moon, and his inferior.

Behla adds some words on the importance of a more thorough comparative study of superstitions regarding the moon than we have at present.

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## CURRENT NOTES ON METEOROLOGY.

## ATMOSPHERIC ELECTRICITY AND TELEPHONES.

AN interesting paper by Trabert, on the crackling of the telephone on the Sonnblick, appears in the Fourth Report of the Sonnblick Verein. The Sonnblick, it may be stated, is one of the best known mountain observatories in the world, by reason of its height (10,154 ft.), and especially by reason of the valuable results which have been derived by Hann and others from the observations there made. For six years five observations a day have been made of the

intensity of the crackling in the telephone at the summit. It appears from these data that in December the minimum crackling is at noon, with the maximum at 9 p. m., and a secondary maximum at 7 a. m., while in June there is a steady increase in the intensity of the noise from 7 a. m. to 9 p. m., without a noon minimum. The other months of winter and summer follow respectively the same rule as December and June, while the intermediate months, as expected, present the intermediate conditions. Further, the noise is greater in summer than in winter. Regarding the explanation of these phenomena, the author finds it chiefly in the presence of atmospheric electricity in the clouds over the Sonnblick, for there is a very striking correspondence between the crackling and the cloudiness on the summit, not only in the diurnal period, but in the annual as well. The days on which there is the greatest intensity of crackling are almost invariably distinguished by cloudiness, rain, snow or thunderstorms. The part played by earth currents must not be overlooked, for on one cloudless anticyclonic day there was a very well marked crackling, which could not be explained as being due to atmospheric electricity.

## WEATHER FORECASTS SEVERAL DAYS IN ADVANCE.

AN elementary discussion of the controls of the weather of central Europe, with suggestions as to weather forecasts for several days in advance, has recently been issued by Dr. van Bebber. It is entitled *Die Beurtheilung des Wetters auf mehrere Tage im Voraus* (Stuttgart, Enke, 1896). Five principal weather types are considered, depending chiefly on the position of the areas of high pressure. The weather conditions which these types usually bring are described, and the increased or decreased frequency of the types at different seasons is noted. The